

Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 210390

TODEP 29

E.O11652: GDS

TAGS: OTRA, NO, PO

SUBJECT: BRIEFING PAPER UPDATE: PORTUGAL

BACKGROUND:

-- THE AUGUST 30 APPOINTMENT OF AZEVEDO AS PRIME MINISTER AND GONCALVES AS ARMED FORCES CHIEF OF STAFF REPRESENTED A LOSS OF GROUND FOR PORTUGUESE MODERATES. THE PORTUGUESE SOCIALIST AND POPULAR DEMOCRATIC PARTIES AND MODERATE ARMED FORCES FACTIONS HAVE REFUSED TO COOPERATE WITH THE COMMUNIST-INCLINED GOVERNMENT. IF INSTALLED, THE NEW PRIME MINISTER WILL HAVE TROUBLE FORMING A GOVERNMENT, PORTUGUESE ON BOTH SIDES OF THE ISSUE WILL TEMPORIZE, THE POLITICAL CRISIS WILL DRAG ON AND, MEANWHILE, THE ACCUMULATION OF REFUGEES IN PORTUGAL WILL DRAMATIZE THE TRAGIC HUMAN DIMENSIONS OF THE CURRENT SITUATION.
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NORWEGIAN POSITION:

-- NORWAY STRONGLY FAVORS A DEMOCRATIC EVOLUTION IN PORTUGAL AND IS A FIRM BACKER OF MARIO SOARES' SOCIALIST

PARTY. NORWAY IS ALSO CONCERNED WITH PORTUGAL'S TIES WITH
NATO.

US POSITION:

-- WE SHARE NORWAY'S DESIRE THAT PORTUGAL EVOLVE IN A
DEMOCRATIC DIRECTION IN ASSOCIATION WITH THE OTHER NATO
NATIONS.

YOUR TALKING POINTS:

-- WE ARE DEEPLY CONCERNED WITH THE FAILURE OF THE
PORTUGUESE GOVERNMENT TO EVOLVE IN A DEMOCRATIC DIRECTION;

-- WE VIEW GONCALVES' NOMINATION AS ARMED FORCES CHIEF
OF STAFF AS A MOVE THAT COULD HINDER DEMOCRATIC DEVELOP-
MENT, AND HARM PORTUGAL'S NATO TIES;

-- WE HOPE THAT (NORWAY) WILL URGE KEY PORTUGUESE
LEADERS IN THE MOST STRENUOUS MANNER POSSIBLE TO IMPLEMENT
DEMOCRATIC MEASURES AND FORTIFY PORTUGAL'S TIES WITH THE
WESTERN NATIONS.

-- THE US HAS DECIDED TO PROVIDE TWO US CIVILIAN
CHARTER AIRCRAFT AND AN INITIAL COMMITMENT OF DOLS 15 MIL-
LION TO HELP WITH THE EVACUATION OF PORTUGUESE CITIZENS
FROM ANGOLA, WE HAVE TAKEN THIS ACTION ON A PURELY
HUMANITARIAN BASIS AND WE ARE PREPARED TO CONSIDER THE
POSSIBILITY OF PROVIDING ADDITIONAL ASSISTANCE IF
NECESSARY.

PORTUGAL AND NATO:

BACKGROUND:

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-- DISCUSSION IS UNDERWAY AMONG THE NATO ALLIES (MINUS
PORTUGAL) ON THE QUESTION OF PORTUGUESE ACCESS TO NATO
CLASSIFIED INFORMATION. PRESENTLY, PORTUGAL ABSTAINS
VOLUNTARILY FROM TOP SECRET, ATOMAL, AND CERTAIN OTHER
SENSITIVE TYPES OF INFORMATION. IN VIEW OF THE SITUATION
IN LISBON, WE BELIEVE THE ALLIES SHOULD NOW MOVE IMMEDIATE-
LY TO RESTRICT PORTUGUESE ACCESS TO NATO INFORMATION,
INCLUDING INFORMATION CLASSIFIED SECRET AND ABOVE.

YOUR TALKING POINTS:

-- IN LIGHT OF THE SITUATION IN PORTUGAL, THE US FAVORS
RESTRICTING PORTUGUESE ACCESS TO SENSITIVE NATO INFORMA-
TION, INCLUDING INFORMATION CLASSIFIED SECRET AND ABOVE. KISSINGER

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